


HOW GOD SAVED HIS PEOPLE

UNIT TWO: God Led His People

Lesson 1: God Called His People Together

CONTENT:

1. When the Israelites reached Mount Sinai, Moses went up the mountain. God told him to call the people together and say: 'Remember how I saved you! Now if you obey me, you shall be my own, precious, holy people.'
2. Moses gathered the leaders and the people and gave them God's message. They were ready to obey God and so became his own people.
3. Jesus came to gather God's people together in a new way. He called the people to turn to God and believe in him. He called twelve apostles to lead his people. Before he ascended he sent the apostles to the whole world to bring people to him. He sent the Holy Spirit to them. The apostles preached the Good News and baptised the people. The Church began.
4. 'Church' means the people whom God called together. Jesus is the real head. He chose Saint Peter to be its leader. The other apostles helped him. Now the Pope takes Saint  Peter's place and the bishops help him.
5. We join the Church when the Holy Spirit came on us at our Baptism. We are blessed to be part of God's own, special people.

ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. Ask your family: Find out by asking family or friends: How did Jesus build his Church? What did he do?

REFERENCES: Exodus 19:1-8; Mark 1:14-15; Matthew 10:1-4; 28:16-20.
CCC 751, 762, 763, 765, 777, 782.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts.

I. STARTER:

[Select a student with leadership qualities and ask him (or her) if he would like to build a human pyramid. Ask him to choose 6 students for his team. If they are ready, they come up to the front and form a pyramid: 3 students on all fours, 2 on top of them (also in crawling position), 1 right on top. They would have to remove their shoes. The leader only guides, but does not join the pyramid. Congratulate and clap for the team.]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

- Many years ago, when Moses and the Israelites were still on their way to the Promised Land, God wanted to do something like [N] (name of student who led). God wanted to form a people of his own. What do you think he did? Do you think he called out the people's names one by one like [N] did? [No.] He did it with Moses' help.

Three months after leaving Egypt, the people came to a desert called Sinai. In front of them they saw a big mountain. They stopped there and put up their tents. Then Moses went up the mountain. God talked to him there and said, "Tell the people: Remember how I saved you from the Egyptians? Like a mother eagle carries her babies on her wings, I carried you and brought you safely here. Now, if you obey my voice, you shall be my own, precious, holy people."

So Moses called the people together. First he called the leaders of the people and told them all that God had said. Then all the people came together. They said, "Yes! We are ready to do everything that God asks us to do!"

So the Israelites became God's own, special people.

- Jesus also did something like [N]. He wanted to make something out of people. Can anyone try and guess what he wanted to make? *[Let the students discuss in pairs, then bring out:]*
Jesus wanted to build a group of people who would be God’s own special people. They would believe in Jesus and follow him. They would obey God and do whatever God asked.
- What do we call this group of people who belong to God? *[The Church]*

Home assignment: Find out by asking family or friends:
How did Jesus build his Church? What did he do?

NEXT CLASS:

- Do you remember what we call the people who belong to God? *[The Church]*
- Did you ask anyone the question: 'How did Jesus build his Church? What did he do?'?

[Allow students to share the answers they have got from home.]

Many years after Moses gathered the people of Israel and they became God’s people, God did something new and wonderful. He sent his own Son Jesus to the world. Jesus had the same job that Moses had: he had to gather God’s people together. But this time it was a greater job than before. He had to gather not only the Israelites, but people from the whole world.

So this is what Jesus did: First he called twelve men to be leaders of his new group of people. Do you know what we call these twelve men? *[Apostles]* Out of all of them, he chose Peter to be the leader of the Church. (Actually, Jesus is the real head of the Church, just as [N] was the one in charge of building the pyramid. But Jesus put Peter in charge, just as [N] put someone on the top of the pyramid.)

The next thing Jesus did was to go around telling people about God. He said, “The time has come! God’s kingdom has come near! Turn back to God and believe the Good News that I have come to give!”

Jesus did one more thing before he went back to heaven. He took the apostles up a mountain and said, “Go to the whole world, and tell everyone the Good News. Baptise them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them all that I have taught you!” Then he promised them a special gift to help them in their work: that gift was the Holy Spirit.

After some days, the Holy Spirit came on the apostles. They all became bold and went out and told others about God. The people heard what they said and answered, “Yes, we want to follow Jesus!” More than 3,000 people were baptised and the Church began!

[Give out handouts and read the written matter in the top frames.]

- Look at the church drawing. How many people can you see in the roof? Who do you think they are? *[The 12 apostles]* Who do you think is the one right on top? *[Saint Peter]* He was the first pope. After Saint Peter died, a new pope took his place. When he died, another man became the pope.
- In the place of the apostles we have bishops. But now the church has become so big that we have hundreds of bishops to help the pope to look after God’s people.

Discuss the questions and let the students write the answers: SAINT PETER; The APOSTLES; JESUS; The POPE; The BISHOPS; When the HOLY SPIRIT came into me at my BAPTISM.

[The students draw themselves and other people they know who belong to the Church. Ask them to draw the Pope and their Bishop and write their names: Pope Francis, Bishop Thomas.]

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Are you happy to belong to God’s special people? Then be quiet now and thank God for bringing you into his Church. Thank him for your Baptism and for the Holy Spirit. Thank him for sending Jesus to gather us all together.

Home assignment: Read handout at home.